

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 23 (currently amended): An oil pan assembly, comprising:

- a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface;
- b) a molded plastic oil pan configured with a plurality of integrally formed clips adapted to align the oil pan with the engine component of a layer having both sealing and strengthening characteristics, said oil pan having an associated second mating surface; and
- c) an adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, ~~wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.~~

Claim 24 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein said oil pan further comprises an additional layer.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 24, wherein said additional layer is a plasma coating on said oil pan.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein the first, second or both mating surfaces includes a primer.

Claim 27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 27, wherein said adhesive is a cure on demand adhesive that cures upon application of a separate operation.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are generally planar.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 23, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 31 (currently amended): An oil pan assembly, comprising:

a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface and including one or more cutout portions formed on an interior portion of the engine component;

b) a molded plastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface and one or more integrally formed clips adjacently formed interior to said second mating surface, wherein said one or more integrally formed clips are adapted to align said molded plastic oil pan with said engine component when engaged with said one or more cutout portions formed on said engine component; and

c) an adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, ~~wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.~~

Claim 32 (cancelled)

Claim 33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein said adhesive is a cure on demand adhesive that cures upon application of a separate operation.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are generally planar.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 37 (currently amended): An oil pan assembly, comprising:

- a) an engine component having an associated first mating surface;
- b) a molded plastic oil pan having an associated second mating surface; and
- c) a cure-on-demand adhesive in contact with said first mating surface and said second mating surface for joining said first component and said oil pan to define an oil pan assembly, wherein said cure-on-demand adhesive is able to withstand exposure to hydrocarbon materials and resists curing until after the first and second mating surfaces are joined ~~cures upon application of a separate operation, and wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.~~

Claim 38 (currently amended): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said ~~separate operation comprises~~ cure-on-demand adhesive is curable upon rupturing an encapsulated curing agent located adjacent to said adhesive.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said ~~separate operation comprises~~ cure-on-demand adhesive is curable upon removing a protective seal to expose the adhesive to ambient conditions.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said ~~separate operation comprises~~ cure-on-demand adhesive is curable upon an application of heat.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said ~~separate operation comprises~~ cure-on-demand adhesive is curable upon an application of infrared light or ultraviolet light.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said ~~separate operation comprises~~ cure-on-demand adhesive is curable upon an application of radio frequency.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said ~~separate operation comprises~~ cure-on-demand adhesive is curable upon an application of moisture.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are generally planar.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The oil pan assembly of claim 37, wherein said oil pan is a blend of a polyamide and a syndiotactic polystyrene.

Claim 46 (new): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein said oil pan further comprises an additional layer.

Claim 47 (new): The oil pan assembly of claim 46, wherein said additional layer is a plasma coating on said oil pan.

Claim 48 (new): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein the first, second or both mating surfaces includes a primer.

Claim 49 (new): The oil pan assembly of claim 31, wherein the resulting joint has a strength greater than the strength of said molded plastic oil pan.

Claim 50 (new): The oil pan assembly of claim 49, wherein the oil pan includes reinforcement ingredients adapted to improve tensile strength of the oil pan.

Claim 51 (new): The oil pan assembly of claim 50, wherein said first mating surface and said second mating surface are non-planar.

Claim 52 (new): The oil pan assembly of claim 51, wherein the non-planar surface includes butt joints, lap joints or tongue in groove joints.